

WAVELENGTH ROUTER WITH STAGGERED INPUT/OUTPUT FIBERS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical routing apparatus and method that achieves improved optical signal
5 reintegration is disclosed. The optical routing apparatus includes an input port, such as may
be provided at the end of an optical fiber. The signal may be routed to one or more of a
plurality of output ports, such as may also be provided at the end of an optical fiber, each
output port being configured to receive the optical signal. The routing between the input port
and the output ports is accomplished with an optical switching arrangement that may shift
10 among multiple distinct optical configurations, each configuration being such as to direct the
optical signal to one of the output ports. The ports are positioned such that the input port and
at least one of the output ports lie in different parallel planes, each such plane being
orthogonal to a path along which the optical signal is provided by the input port or received
by one of the output ports.

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